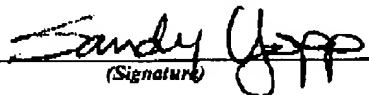
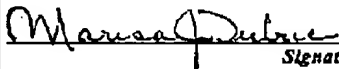


OCT 17 2005

<b>CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION BY FACSIMILE (37 CFR 1.8)</b> Applicant(s): Robert D. Hayes, et al.			Docket No. YOR920000503US1 / I27-0006	
Application No. 09/711,777	Filing Date 11/09/2000	Examiner Catherine M. Colon	Group Art Unit 3623	
Invention: <b>METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DYNAMICALLY PROVIDING MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION</b>				
<p>I hereby certify that this <u>Transmittal Letter (1 pg); Corrected Appeal Brief (44 pgs)</u> (Identify type of correspondence) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax. No. <u>571-273-8300</u>) on <u>October 17, 2005</u> (Date)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Sandy Yopp</u> (Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate) <u></u> (Signature)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.</p>				

P18/REV02

<b>TRANSMITTAL LETTER</b> <b>(General - Patent Pending)</b>				Docket No. <b>YOR920000503US1 / I27-0006</b>	
In Re Application Of: <b>Robert D. Hayes, et al.</b>					
Application No. <b>09/711,777</b>	Filing Date <b>11/09/2000</b>	Examiner <b>Catherine M. Colon</b>	Customer No. <b>48915</b>	Group Art Unit <b>3623</b>	Confirmation No. <b>3454</b>
Title: <b>METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DYNAMICALLY PROVIDING MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION</b>					
<b>COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:</b>					
Transmitted herewith is:  <b>Corrected Appeal Brief</b>			<b>RECEIVED</b> <b>CENTRAL FAX CENTER</b> <b>OCT 17 2005</b>		
In the above identified application.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required.					
<input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ is attached.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. <b>50-0510</b> as described below.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Charge the amount of _____					
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit any overpayment.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional fee required.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.					
<b>WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.</b>					
 _____ Signature			Dated: <b>October 17, 2005</b>		
Marisa J. Dubuc Registration No. 46,673 Cantor Colburn LLP 55 Griffin Road South Bloomfield, CT 06002 Phone: 860-286-2929 Fax: 860-286-0115			<div>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on _____.</div> <div style="text-align: center;">(Date)</div> <div style="text-align: center;">_____ Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence</div> <div style="text-align: center;">_____ Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence</div>		
cc:					

P18A/REV03

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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OCT 17 2005

APPELLANT: ROBERT D. HAYES, ET AL. )  
 ) Before the  
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/711,777 ) Board of  
 ) Appeals  
FILED: November 9, 2000 )  
 ) Appeal No.  
FOR: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR )  
 )  
 ) DYNAMICALLY PROVIDING  
 )  
 ) MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY  
 )  
 ) INFORMATION )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CORRECTED APPEAL BRIEF**

This Corrected Appeal Brief is submitted in response to a Notice of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief mailed on September 15, 2005.

**THE REAL PARTY IN INTEREST**

The real party in interest in this appeal is International Business Machines, Inc. Ownership by International Business Machines, Inc. is established by assignment document recorded for this application on November 9, 2000 on Reel 011683, Frame 0394.

**RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Appellant knows of no related patent applications or patents under appeal or interference proceeding.

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

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STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 6, 19, 24, 25, 53, 66, 71 and 72 have been cancelled. Claims 84 and 85 have been added. Claims 1-5, 7-18, 20-23, 26-52, 54-65, 67-70 and 73-85 stand rejected. The rejections of claims 1-5, 7-18, 20-23, 26-52, 54-65, 67-70 and 73-85 are herein appealed.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

There have been no amendments filed subsequent to receipt of the final office action.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

A concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims 1, 17, 26, 37, 48, 64, 73, 84 and 85 involved in the appeal is provided below:

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites "[a] method for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment."

The method comprising "receiving a request from a first enterprise system to contact a web site maintained by a second enterprise system." Referring to Figures 1 and 8, first enterprise system 150 contacts a second enterprise system 102 (page 11, lines 17-20).

The method further comprising "said second enterprise system authenticating a user ID and password of a user of said first enterprise system." (Figures 1 and 8; page 11, lines 22-23).

The method further comprising "in response to receiving a request to complete a survey, providing the first enterprise system with access to a survey form stored in a database

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

that is replicated at the second enterprise system." (Figures 1 and 8; page 11, lines 7-17 and lines 23-26).

The method further comprising "receiving response data solicited in the survey form." (Figure 9; page 14, lines 11-14).

The method further comprising "updating a database at the second enterprise system with the response data, the updating including storing the response data in one of a draft mode and a final mode designated by the first enterprise system." (Figure 8; page 12, line 26-page 13, line 3).

The method further comprising "wherein said second enterprise system includes a development toolkit network tool for executing product development and procurement activities." (Figure 1; page 4, lines 21-23).

#### Claim 17

Claim 17 recites "[a] method for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment."

The method comprising "receiving a notification by a remote user of a second enterprise system, said notification including data relating to a supplier survey, the notification generated in response to an assignment of a final mode designator to the supplier survey; wherein the designator is assigned by a first enterprise system." (Figures 1 and 9; page 15, lines 1-4; page 6, lines 6-9; page 12, line 26-page 13, line 8).

The method further comprising "receiving a request to access a replicated database associated with said second enterprise system, said replicated database storing said supplier survey." (Figure 1; page 5, lines 12-14).

The method further comprising "authenticating a user ID and a password of said remote user." (Figure 1; page 6, lines 6-27)

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

The method further comprising "providing access to said replicated database" and "displaying said supplier survey." (Figures 1 and 9; page 6, lines 6-27; page 14, lines 14-16).

The method further comprising "evaluating supplier input entered into the supplier survey." (Figure 9; page 13, lines 23-28).

The method further comprising "providing evaluation results into a remote device operated by said remote user" and "storing said data." (Figure 9; page 14, lines 14-16).

The method further comprising "wherein said enterprise system includes a development toolkit network tool for executing product development and procurement activities." (Figures 1 and 9).

#### **Claim 26**

Claim 26 recites "[a] method for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment."

The method comprising "receiving a request to access a database associated with an enterprise system by a remote user." (Figure 1; page 6, lines 25-27; page 7, lines 12-16, lines 18-22; lines 26-29).

The method further comprising "authenticating a user ID and a password of said remote user." (page 7, lines 18-30).

The method further comprising "replicating said database to a second database of said enterprise system." (page 7, lines 18-30).

The method further comprising "providing access to said second database." (page 7, lines 18-30).

The method further comprising "receiving a request for a technology menu, said menu comprising at least one technology type." (Figures 3-4; page 8, lines 17-25).

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

The method further comprising "transmitting said technology menu via said network." (Figures 3-4; page 8, lines 17-25).

The method further comprising "receiving a request for a display of technology sub-types from said at least one technology type." (Figures 3-4; 25-29).

The method further comprising "receiving said display via said network wherein said technology sub-types include at least one technology family." (Figures 3-5; page 9, lines 12-16).

The method further comprising "receiving a request for data corresponding to said at least one technology family." (Figures 3-5; page 9, lines 12-16).

The method further comprising "transmitting said data corresponding to said at least one technology family; wherein said data includes at least one technology supplier." (Figures 3-5; page 9, lines 12-16).

The method further comprising "wherein further, said enterprise system includes a development toolkit network tool for executing product development and procurement functions." (Figures 1 and 3).

#### **Claim 37**

Claim 37 recites "[a] system for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a network environment."

The system comprising "a host system including a web server, an applications server, and a database server." Referring to Figure 1, a host system 110 includes a web server 104, an applications server 106, and a database server 108.

The system further comprising "a first data storage device in communication with said host system." Data storage device 118 is included in the system of Figure 1.

YOR920000303US1  
127-0006

The system further comprising "a second data storage device in communication with said host system." Data storage device 120 is included in the system of Figure 1.

The system further comprising "a development toolkit network application being executed by said host system." (Figure 1; page 4, lines 21-23).

The system further comprising "a firewall in communication with said host system." Figure 1 shows a firewall 122 in communication with the host system 110.

The system further comprising "a workstation." Figure 1 shows a workstation 114.

The system further comprising "a computer network connecting the host system to the workstation." Figure 1 shows a LAN 112 connecting the host system 110 to the workstation 114.

The system further comprising "wherein the development toolkit network application performs:

in response to receiving a request from the workstation to complete a survey, providing the workstation with access to a survey form stored in a database associated with the second storage device, the database replicated at the second enterprise system." (Figures 1 and 8; page 11, lines 7-17 and lines 23-26).

The development toolkit network application further performing "receiving response data solicited in the survey form." (Figure 9; page 14, lines 11-14).

The development toolkit network application further performing "updating the second database with the response data, the updating including storing the response data in one of a draft mode and a final mode designated by the first enterprise system." (Figure 8; page 12, line 26-page 13, line3).

#### **Claim 48**

Claim 48 recites "[a] storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006



program code for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment, including a first enterprise system and a second enterprise system, the storage medium including instructions for causing said second enterprise system to implement a method."

The method comprising "receiving a request from a first enterprise system to contact a web site maintained by a second enterprise system." Referring to Figures 1 and 8, first enterprise system 150 contacts a second enterprise system 102 (page 11, lines 17-20).

The method further comprising "said second enterprise system authenticating a user ID and password of a user of said first enterprise system." (Figures 1 and 8; page 11, lines 22-23).

The method further comprising "in response to receiving a request to complete a survey, providing the first enterprise system with access to a survey form stored in a database that is replicated at the second enterprise system." (Figures 1 and 8; page 11, lines 7-17 and lines 23-26).

The method further comprising "receiving response data solicited in the survey form." (Figure 9; page 14, lines 11-14).

The method further comprising "updating a database at the second enterprise system with the response data, the updating including storing the response data in one of a draft mode and a final mode designated by the first enterprise system." (Figure 8; page 12, line 26-page 13, line3).

The method further comprising "wherein said second enterprise system includes a development toolkit network tool for executing product development and procurement activities." (Figure 1; page 4, lines 21-23).

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

**Claim 64**

Claim 64 recites “[a] storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment, the storage medium including instructions for causing an enterprise system to implement a method.”

The method comprising “receiving a notification by a remote user of a second enterprise system, said notification including data relating to a supplier survey, the notification generated in response to an assignment of a final mode designator to the supplier survey; wherein the designator is assigned by a first enterprise system.” (Figures 1 and 9; page 15, lines 1-4; page 6, lines 6-9; page 12, line 26-page 13, line 8).

The method further comprising “receiving a request to access a replicated database associated with said second enterprise system, said replicated database storing said supplier survey.” (Figure 1; page 5, lines 12-14).

The method further comprising “authenticating a user ID and a password of said remote user.” (Figure 1; page 6, lines 6-27)

The method further comprising “providing access to said replicated database” and “displaying said supplier survey.” (Figures 1 and 9; page 6, lines 6-27; page 14, lines 14-16).

The method further comprising “evaluating supplier input entered into the supplier survey.” (Figure 9; page 13, lines 23-28).

The method further comprising “providing evaluation results into a remote device operated by said remote user” and “storing said data.” (Figure 9; page 14, lines 14-16).

The method further comprising “wherein said enterprise system includes a development toolkit network tool for executing product development and procurement activities.” (Figures 1 and 9).

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

**Claim 73**

Claim 73 recites “[a] storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment, including a first enterprise system and a second enterprise system, the storage medium including instructions for causing said second enterprise system to implement a method.”

The method comprising “receiving a request to access a database associated with an enterprise system by a remote user.” (Figure 1; page 6, lines 25-27; page 7, lines 12-16, lines 18-22; lines 26-29).

The method further comprising “authenticating a user ID and a password of said remote user.” (page 7, lines 18-30).

The method further comprising “replicating said database to a second database of said enterprise system.” (page 7, lines 18-30).

The method further comprising “providing access to said second database.” (page 7, lines 18-30).

The method further comprising “receiving a request for a technology menu, said menu comprising at least one technology type.” (Figures 3-4; page 8, lines 17-25).

The method further comprising “transmitting said technology menu via said network.” (Figures 3-4; page 8, lines 17-25).

The method further comprising “receiving a request for a display of technology sub-types from said at least one technology type.” (Figures 3-4; 25-29).

The method further comprising “receiving said display via said network wherein said technology sub-types include at least one technology family.” (Figures 3-5; page 9, lines 12-

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

16).

The method further comprising "receiving a request for data corresponding to said at least one technology family." (Figures 3-5; page 9, lines 12-16).

The method further comprising "transmitting said data corresponding to said at least one technology family; wherein said data includes at least one technology supplier." (Figures 3-5; page 9, lines 12-16).

The method further comprising "wherein further, said enterprise system includes a development toolkit network tool for executing product development and procurement functions." (Figures 1 and 3).

#### **Claim 84**

Claim 84 recites "[a] method for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment."

The method comprising "receiving product data and technical information from a plurality of supplier entities via a supplier survey database, the supplier survey database replicated for each of the plurality of supplier entities." (Figures 1, 8 and 9; page 12, line 5-page 14, line 14).

The method further comprising "associating the product data and technology information with a procurement specialist and providing the procurement specialist with access to the product data and technical information for analysis." (Figures 8 and 9; page 13, line 29-page 14, line 4)

The method further comprising "receiving results of the analysis from the procurement specialist, the results including preferred technology recommendations and preferred supplier recommendations." (Figure 9; page 14, lines 16-28).

The method further comprising "integrating the product development and technical

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

information with the results and with a parts repository resulting in a technical roadmap guide." (Figure 9; page 14, line 29-page 15, line 24).

The method further comprising "providing a development engineer with access to the technical roadmap guide." (page 8, lines 3-12 and lines 25-29).

#### **Claim 85**

Claim 85 recites "[a] storage medium encoded with machine-readable program code for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment, the program code including instructions for causing a host system to implement a method."

The method comprising "receiving product data and technical information from a plurality of supplier entities via a supplier survey database, the supplier survey database replicated for each of the plurality of supplier entities." (Figures 1, 8 and 9; page 12, line 5-page 14, line 14).

The method further comprising "associating the product data and technology information with a procurement specialist and providing the procurement specialist with access to the product data and technical information for analysis." (Figures 8 and 9; page 13, line 29-page 14, line 4)

The method further comprising "receiving results of the analysis from the procurement specialist, the results including preferred technology recommendations and preferred supplier recommendations." (Figure 9; page 14, lines 16-28).

The method further comprising "integrating the product development and technical information with the results and with a parts repository resulting in a technical roadmap guide." (Figure 9; page 14, line 29-page 15, line 24).

The method further comprising "providing a development engineer with access to the technical roadmap guide." (page 8, lines 3-12 and lines 25-29).

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

**GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL**

Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16, 17, 20-23, 26-36, 38-52, 54-61, 63, 64, 67-70 and 73-85 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Aycock et al. The rejection of claims 1-5, 7-14, 16, 17, 20-23, 26-36, 38-52, 54-61, 63, 64, 67-70 and 73-85 as being allegedly anticipated by Aycock et al. is to be reviewed on appeal.

Claims 15, 18, 37, 62, 65 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Aycock et al. The rejection of claims 15, 18, 37, 62, 65 as being allegedly unpatentable over Aycock et al. is to be reviewed on appeal

**ARGUMENT****Rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16, 17, 20-23, 26-36, 38-52, 54-61, 63, 64, 67-70 and 73-85**

Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16, 17, 20-23, 26-36, 38-52, 54-61, 63, 64, 67-70 and 73-85 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Aycock et al.

The Examiner states with respect to claim 1, that Aycock et al. disclose a method for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment, comprising receiving a request from a first enterprise system to contact a web site maintained by a second enterprise system, said second enterprise system authenticating a user ID and password of a user of said first enterprise system. In support, the Examiner cites col. 3, line 62-col. 4, line 2; col. 10, lines 17-42 and 49-67; col. 11, lines 1-9; Figure 2. The Examiner further states that Aycock et al. disclose "in response to receiving a request to complete a survey, providing the first enterprise system

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

with access to a survey form stored in a database that is replicated at the second enterprise system” and cites col. 3, line 62-coll. 4, line 6; col. 10, lines 55-67; col. 11, lines 1-9; col. 12, lines 14-16; Figure 2; in support. Referring to column 3, line 61 through column 4, line 6, Aycock et al. disclose a supplier interface that enables a supplier to “electronically download the RFP/RFQ, which may be in the form of an executable code or a protected data file.” Responses to questions may be “uploaded” to the main processing system 68 (col. 11, lines 3-5). Aycock et al. fail to disclose a survey form, but rather teach a Request for Quotation (RFQ) or Request for Proposal (RFP) (col. 1, lines 48-49) that is implemented. Additionally, Aycock et al. fail to disclose providing the first enterprise system with access to a survey form stored in a database that is replicated at the second enterprise system. The Examiner’s statement that “[d]ownloading data from a database, which is copying the data to a local location, is essentially the same function as replicating the data” (Office Action dated 12/22/04, page 9) is in error. Downloading data, a file, or document is not equivalent to *database replication* (emphasis added). Database replication is a process that allows multiple copies of a database to be provided on different servers. A “database” is not synonymous with a “document” (i.e., supplier responses). Nor is “downloading” equivalent to “replication.”

The Examiner further states that Aycock et al. disclose receiving a request from a supplier to complete a supplier evaluation form. Aycock et al. is devoid of teaching a specific entity requesting an evaluation form, but rather teach a “generation of a request for proposal or request for quotation (RFP/RFQ), providing the RFP/RFQ to a supplier. Receiving the supplier responses, and calculating a supplier compliance level...” (col. 5,

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

lines 13-15). The aforementioned listing of steps, as recited in Aycock et al., occur from the perspective of the qualifying enterprise (i.e., the main processing system), not the supplier entity. Thus, Aycock et al. does not explicitly teach receiving a request from a supplier, as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner further states that Aycock et al. teach "updating a database at the second enterprise system with the response data, the updating including storing the response data in one of a draft mode and a final mode designated by the first enterprise system." The Examiner cites col. 11, lines 1-9; col. 11, line 63-cd. 12, line 13; col. 13, lines 55-61; Figure 3, in support. Referring to column 13, lines 55-61, Aycock et al. disclose "[t]he word processing-based system 104 loads the first RFP/RFQ question or maturity requirement from the RFP/RFQ template file 102 in step 122 and displays the question. If there is a previously-stored vendor response file 106, the supplier self-evaluation system automatically loads the stored answer in step 124 and prompts the supplier whether the answer should be accepted or rejected. In response to the prompt, the supplier will either accept the loaded answer, or will edit the answer with the appropriate response." Aycock et al. is devoid of teaching storing the response data in one of a draft mode and a final mode. Accepting or rejecting a stored answer as taught by Aycock et al. is not equivalent to storing response data in one of draft mode and final mode.

The Examiner further states that Aycock et al. teach "wherein said second enterprise system includes a development toolkit network tool for executing product development and procurement activities" and cites col. 7, lines 56-59; col. 9, line 3-col.

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006



10, line 67, in support. Aycock does not specifically teach a development toolkit network application.

Claims 2-5, 7-14, and 16 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim.

Claim 2 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 2 recites "in response to receiving a request to view a completed survey, replicating a database associated said second enterprise system resulting from the request to view a completed survey; providing access to said database; displaying a list of surveys, said surveys previously completed by said first enterprise system; retrieving one of said surveys from said database in response to a request to view a selected survey; and displaying said selected survey." The Examiner cites col. 12, line 57-col. 13, line 14; Figure 3, col. 10, lines 60-67; col. 13, lines 55-61; in support.

As indicated above, with respect to claim 1, Aycock et al. is devoid of teaching database replication. For at least these reasons, claim 2 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 3 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 3 recites "wherein the receiving a request to complete a survey includes: receiving a request to select a survey type from a list of survey type options, and associating said survey form with a technical representative of said second enterprise system." The Examiner cites col. 9, lines 3-67; Figures 2 and 3, in support. There is

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

simply no teaching or suggestion in Aycock et al. of a request to select a survey type from a list of survey type options. Nor is there any teaching that the survey form is associated with a technical representative. For at least these reasons, claim 3 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 4 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 4 recites "receiving an attached file with response data." The Examiner cites col. 12, lines 14-67; col. 13, lines 5-12, in support. Again, there is no teaching or suggestion of an attached file with response data. For at least these reasons, claim 4 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 5 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 5 recites "wherein said storing said survey form includes storing said survey form in a draft mode at said second enterprise system." The Examiner cites col. 13, lines 55-61; Figure 3, in support. As indicated above with respect to claim 1, Aycock et al. does not teach storing a survey form in draft mode. For at least these reasons, claim 5 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 7 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 7 recites "wherein said storing said survey form in a final mode occurs at said second enterprise system." The Examiner cites col. 13, lines 5-12 and 55-61, in support. As indicated above with respect to claim 1, Aycock et al. does not teach storing a survey in final mode. For at least these reasons, claim 7 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 8 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

of itself. Claim 8 recites "wherein said storing said survey form in said final mode includes: transmitting a notification to a representative of said second enterprise system and making available said survey form to said second enterprise system." The Examiner cites col. 11, line 63-col. 12, line 27, in support. As indicated above with respect to claim 1, Aycock et al. does not teach or suggest storing a survey form in final mode. Nor does Aycock teach or suggest notifying a representative of the second enterprise system (i.e., the qualifying enterprise) of the survey form once stored in final mode. For at least these reasons, claim 8 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 9 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 9 recites "receiving a request to access a stored survey form from said database, retrieving said stored survey form from said database, transmitting said stored survey form to said first enterprise system, said first enterprise editing said stored survey form, receiving edits to said stored survey form and storing said survey form in said database." The Examiner cites col. 13, lines 49-61, in support. However, Aycock et al. does not teach receiving a request to access a stored survey form and editing the survey form. For at least these reasons, claim 9 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 10 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 10 recites "wherein said editing is in a draft mode." The Examiner cites col. 13, lines 49-61, in support. As indicated above with respect to claim 1, Aycock et al. is devoid of teaching a draft mode. For at least these reasons, claim 10 is not anticipated by

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

Aycock et al.

Claim 11 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 11 recites "wherein said transmitting said survey form includes replicating said database to said second enterprise system and designating said survey form as a new entry." The Examiner cites col. 14, lines 9-21, in support. As indicated above with respect to claim 1, Aycock et al does not teach or suggest replicating a database. For at least these reasons, claim 11 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 12 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 12 recites "wherein said storing said survey form includes storing said survey form in a final mode." The Examiner cites col. 14, lines 9-21, in support. As indicated above with respect to claim 1, Aycock et al. does not teach or suggest a final mode for storing survey forms. For at least these reasons, claim 12 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 13 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 13 recites "wherein said storing said survey form in said final mode causes a notification to be transmitted to a representative of said second enterprise system." The Examiner cites col. 14, lines 9-21, in support. As indicated above with respect to claim 1, Aycock et al. is devoid of teaching or suggesting a final mode for a survey form. Moreover, Aycock et al. fails to teach that the storing of the survey form

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

causes a notification to be transmitted to a representative of the second enterprise system (i.e., the qualifying enterprise). For at least these reasons, claim 13 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 14 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 14 recites "wherein said communications network environment includes an extranet." The Examiner cites col. 10, lines 17-23; Figure 2, in support. The Examiner's contention that an extranet is taught by Aycock et al. is in error. There is simply no teaching in Aycock et al. of an extranet used as the communications network. Rather, Aycock teaches "the business terminal system 70a may be remotely accessible to the main processing system 68 via, for example, a communication network 72" (col. 10, lines 20-23). For at least these reasons, claim 14 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 17 recites "receiving a notification by a remote user of a second enterprise system, said notification including data relating to a supplier survey, the notification generated in response to an assignment of a final mode designator to the supplier survey; wherein the designator is assigned by a first enterprise system;

receiving a request to access a replicated database associated with said second enterprise system, said replicated database storing said supplier survey;

authenticating a user ID and a password of said remote user;

providing access to said replicated database;

displaying said supplier survey;

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

evaluating supplier input entered into the supplier survey;

providing evaluation results into a remote device operated by said remote user; and

storing said data;

wherein said enterprise system includes a development toolkit network tool for executing product development and procurement activities."

Claim 17 is not anticipated by Aycock et al. at least for the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1. Claims 20-23 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim.

Claim 20 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 20 recites "wherein said replicated database resides on a remote device." As indicated above, Aycock et al. is devoid of teaching or suggesting database replication. For at least these reasons, claim 20 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 23 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 23 recites "wherein said entering said data includes rating said supplier survey, and wherein said rating includes providing markings to said survey, said markings designating a preferred status." The Examiner cites Abstract; col. 2, line 60-col. 3, line 35; col. 6, line 55-col. 7, line 13, in support. Aycock et al. does not teach or suggest providing markings to a survey designating a preferred status. For at least these reasons, claim 23 is not anticipated by Aycock.

Claim 26 recites "receiving a request to access a database associated with an

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

enterprise system by a remote user;

authenticating a user ID and a password of said remote user;

replicating said database to a second database of said enterprise system;

providing access to said second database;

receiving a request for a technology menu, said menu comprising at least one technology type;

transmitting said technology menu via said network;

receiving a request for a display of technology sub-types from said at least one technology type;

receiving said display via said network wherein said technology sub-types include at least one technology family;

receiving a request for data corresponding to said at least one technology family; and

transmitting said data corresponding to said at least one technology family; wherein said data includes at least one technology supplier; and

wherein further, said enterprise system includes a development toolkit network tool for executing product development and procurement functions."

Claim 26 is not anticipated by Aycock et al. for at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1. Notwithstanding, Aycock et al., does not teach or suggest receiving a request for a technology menu. Nor does Aycock et al. teach a technology type provided by the menu. Nor does Aycock et al. teach or suggest a request for display of technology sub-types from said at least one technology type, nor that the technology sub-types include at

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

least one technology family. For at least these reasons, claim 26 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claims 27-36 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim.

Claim 37 is not anticipated by Aycock et al. Claims 38-47 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim 37.

Claim 38 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 38 recites "wherein a front end database is stored in said first data storage device." Aycock et al. is devoid of teaching a front end database stored in a first data storage device. For at least these reasons, claim 38 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 39 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 39 recites "wherein an engineering notebook database is stored in said first data storage device." Aycock et al. is devoid of teaching an engineering notebook database. For at least these reasons, claim 39 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 40 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 40 recites "wherein a technology survey database is stored in said second data storage device." Aycock et al. is devoid of teaching a technology survey database. For at least these reasons, claim 40 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 41 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 41 recites "front end database is replicated to a remote network device." Aycock et al. is devoid of teaching a front end database. Aycock et al. is also devoid of teaching database replication. For at least these reasons, claim 41 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 42 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 42 recites "wherein said engineering notebook database is replicated to a

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006



remote network device." Aycock et al. is devoid of teaching an engineering notebook database. Aycock et al. is also devoid of teaching database replication. For at least these reasons, claim 42 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 43 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 43 recites "wherein said technology survey database is replicated to a remote network device over an extranet network connection." Aycock et al. is devoid of teaching a technology survey database. Aycock et al. is also devoid of teaching database replication. Moreover, Aycock et al. is devoid of teaching an extranet. For at least these reasons, claim 43 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 44 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 44 recites "wherein said front end application includes a technology selector application." Aycock et al. is devoid of teaching a front end application that includes a technology selector application. For at least these reasons, claim 44 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 45 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 45 recites "wherein said engineering notebook application includes a road maps application." Aycock et al. is devoid of teaching an engineering notebook application. Aycock et al. is further devoid of teaching a roadmaps application. For at least these reasons, claim 45 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 46 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 46 recites "wherein said technology surveys database includes a supplier comparison application." Aycock et al. is devoid of teaching a technology surveys database. Aycock et al. is further devoid of teaching a supplier comparison application. For at least these reasons, claim 46 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 47 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

itself. Claim 47 recites "technology surveys database includes a supplier technology survey application." Aycock et al. is devoid of teaching a supplier technology survey application. For at least these reasons, claim 47 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claim 48 recites a storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment. The program code includes instructions for performing a method substantially similar to that recited in claim 1. For at least this reason, claim 48 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claims 49-52, 54-16, and 63 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim.

Claim 64 recites a storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment. The program code includes instructions for performing a method substantially similar to that recited in claim 17. For at least this reason, claim 64 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

Claims 67-70 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim.

Claim 73 recites a storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment. The program code includes instructions for performing a method substantially similar to that recited in claim 26. For at least this reason, claim 73 is not anticipated by Aycock et al.

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

Claims 74-83 should be patentable as depending from what should be an allowable independent claim.

Claims 84 and 85 recite a method and storage medium, respectively, for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment. The method comprises "receiving product data and technical information from a plurality of supplier entities via a supplier survey database, the supplier survey database replicated for each of the plurality of supplier entities;

associating the product data and technology information with a procurement specialist and providing the procurement specialist with access to the product data and technical information for analysis;

receiving results of the analysis from the procurement specialist, the results including preferred technology recommendations and preferred supplier recommendations;

integrating the product development and technical information with the results and with a parts repository resulting in a technical roadmap guide; and

providing a development engineer with access to the technical roadmap guide."

For at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claims 1, 17, 26, 37, 64, and 73, claims 84 and 85 are not anticipated by Aycock et al.

**Rejection of Claims 15, 18, 37, 62, 65**

Claims 15, 18, 37, 62, and 65 have been rejected as being allegedly unpatentable over Aycock et al.

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

Claim 15 should be patentable as being dependent upon what should be an allowable independent claim.

Claim 18 should be patentable as being dependent upon what should be an allowable independent claim. Claim 18 should also be allowable as setting forth patentable subject matter in and of itself. Claim 18 recites "wherein said receiving said notification is via an electronic mail." The Examiner concedes that Aycock does not disclose this feature but contends that such feature would have been obvious to one of skill in the art. As indicated above, Aycock et al. fails to teach notifications. Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to modify Aycock to implement notifications by email, as the Examiner suggests. For at least these reasons, claim 18 is patentable over Aycock et al.

Claim 37 is not anticipated by Aycock et al. for at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1. Claim 37 recites "[a] system for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a network environment, comprising:

- a host system including a web server, an applications server, and a database server;
- a first data storage device in communication with said host system;
- a second data storage device in communication with said host system;
- a development toolkit network application being executed by said host system;
- a firewall in communication with said host system;
- a workstation; and

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

a computer network connecting the host system to the workstation;

wherein the development toolkit network application performs:

in response to receiving a request from the workstation to complete a survey, providing the workstation with access to a survey form stored in a database associated with the second storage device, the database replicated at the second enterprise system;

receiving response data solicited in the survey form; and

updating the second database with the response data, the updating including storing the response data in one of a draft mode and a final mode designated by the first enterprise system."

Claim 62 is patentable as being dependent upon what should be an allowable independent claim. Claim 65 is patentable as being dependent upon what should be an allowable independent claim.

#### EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None

#### RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is urged that the final rejection of claims 1-5, 7-18, 20-23, 26-52, 54-65, 67-70 and 73-85 be overturned. The final rejection is in error and should be reversed. The fee set forth in 37 CFR 41.20(b)(2) is enclosed herewith. If there are any additional charges with respect to this Appeal Brief, or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-0510 maintained by Appellants' assignee.

Respectfully submitted,

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YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

CLAIM APPENDIX

1. A method for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment, comprising:

receiving a request from a first enterprise system to contact a web site maintained by a second enterprise system;

said second enterprise system authenticating a user ID and password of a user of said first enterprise system;

in response to receiving a request to complete a survey, providing the first enterprise system with access to a survey form stored in a database that is replicated at the second enterprise system;

receiving response data solicited in the survey form; and

updating a database at the second enterprise system with the response data, the updating including storing the response data in one of a draft mode and a final mode designated by the first enterprise system;

wherein said second enterprise system includes a development toolkit network tool for executing product development and procurement activities.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

in response to receiving a request to view a completed survey, replicating a database associated said second enterprise system resulting from the request to view a completed survey;

providing access to said database;

displaying a list of surveys, said surveys previously completed by said first enterprise system;

retrieving one of said surveys from said database in response to a request to view a selected survey; and

displaying said selected survey.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving a request to complete a survey includes:

receiving a request to select a survey type from a list of survey type options;

and

associating said survey form with a technical representative of said second enterprise system.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving an attached file with said response data.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said storing said survey form in a draft mode occurs at said second enterprise system.

6. (Cancelled).

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said storing said survey form a final mode occurs at said second enterprise system.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said storing said survey form in said final mode includes:

transmitting a notification to a representative of said second enterprise system; and

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006



making available said survey form to said second enterprise system.

9. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

receiving a request to access a stored survey form from said database;

retrieving said stored survey form from said database;

transmitting said stored survey form to said first enterprise system, said first enterprise editing said stored survey form;

receiving edits to said stored survey form; and

storing said survey form in said database.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said editing is in a draft mode.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said transmitting said survey form includes replicating said database to said second enterprise system and designating said survey form as a new entry.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein said storing said survey form includes storing said survey form in a final mode.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said storing said survey form in said final mode causes a notification to be transmitted to a representative of said second enterprise system.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein said communications network environment includes an extranet.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein said authenticating said user ID and said password is accomplished via a firewall.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein said user is a supplier.

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

17. A method for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment, comprising:

receiving a notification by a remote user of a second enterprise system, said notification including data relating to a supplier survey, the notification generated in response to an assignment of a final mode designator to the supplier survey; wherein the designator is assigned by a first enterprise system;

receiving a request to access a replicated database associated with said second enterprise system, said replicated database storing said supplier survey;

authenticating a user ID and a password of said remote user;

providing access to said replicated database;

displaying said supplier survey;

evaluating supplier input entered into the supplier survey;

providing evaluation results into a remote device operated by said remote user; and

storing said data;

wherein said enterprise system includes a development toolkit network tool for executing product development and procurement activities.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said receiving said notification is via an electronic mail.

19. (Cancelled).

20. The method of claim 17, wherein said replicated database resides on a remote device.

21. The method of claim 17, wherein said entering said data includes providing feedback information to a supplier, said supplier associated with said supplier survey.

22. The method of claim 17, wherein said entering said data includes rating said supplier survey.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said rating includes providing markings to said survey, said markings designating a preferred status.

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Cancelled)

26. A method for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment, comprising:

receiving a request to access a database associated with an enterprise system by a remote user;

authenticating a user ID and a password of said remote user;

replicating said database to a second database of said enterprise system;

providing access to said second database;

receiving a request for a technology menu, said menu comprising at least one technology type;

transmitting said technology menu via said network;

receiving a request for a display of technology sub-types from said at least one technology type;

receiving said display via said network wherein said technology sub-types include at least one technology family;

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

receiving a request for data corresponding to said at least one technology family; and

transmitting said data corresponding to said at least one technology family; wherein said data includes at least one technology supplier; and

wherein further, said enterprise system includes a development toolkit network tool for executing product development and procurement functions.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein said technology menu, said technology types, and said technology sub-types are retrievable from a first database.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein said data corresponding to said at least one technology family is retrievable from a second database.

29. The method of claim 26, further comprising:

receiving a request for data corresponding to said at least one technology supplier, said data including an item from said supplier technology comparison list; and

transmitting a technology survey response.

30. The method of 29, wherein said technology survey response is rated, said survey including preferredness designations.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein said designations are provided by a procurement engineer of said enterprise system.

32. The method of 29, wherein said technology survey response is not rated.

33. The method of claim 26, further comprising:

transmitting a hypertext link from said technology survey response, said link corresponding to a supplier's web site.

34. The method of claim 26, wherein said providing access to said database includes

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

replicating said database to a second database.

35. The method of claim 26, wherein said request for said data is initiated by a development engineer of said second enterprise system.

36. The method of claim 26, wherein said communications network environment is an intranet.

37. A system for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a network environment, comprising:

a host system including a web server, an applications server, and a database server;

a first data storage device in communication with said host system;

a second data storage device in communication with said host system;

a development toolkit network application being executed by said host system;

a firewall in communication with said host system;

a workstation; and

a computer network connecting the host system to the workstation;

wherein the development toolkit network application performs:

in response to receiving a request from the workstation to complete a survey, providing the workstation with access to a survey form stored in a database associated with the second storage device, the database replicated at the second enterprise system;

receiving response data solicited in the survey form; and

updating the second database with the response data, the updating including storing the response data in one of a draft mode and a final mode designated by the first enterprise

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

system.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein a front end database is stored in said first data storage device.

39. The system of claim 37, wherein an engineering notebook database is stored in said first data storage device.

40. The system of claim 37, wherein a technology survey database is stored in said second data storage device.

41. The system of claim 38, wherein said front end database is replicated to a remote network device.

42. The system of claim 39, wherein said engineering notebook database is replicated to a remote network device.

43. The system of claim 40, wherein said technology survey database is replicated to a remote network device over an extranet network connection.

44. The system of claim 38, wherein said front end application includes a technology selector application.

45. The system of claim 39, wherein said engineering notebook application includes a road maps application.

46. The system of claim 40, wherein said technology surveys database includes a supplier comparison application.

47. The system of claim 40, wherein said technology surveys database includes a supplier technology survey application.

YOR920000503US1  
I27-0006

48. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment, including a first enterprise system and a second enterprise system, the storage medium including instructions for causing said second enterprise system to implement a method, comprising:

receiving a request from a first enterprise system to contact a web site maintained by a second enterprise system;

said second enterprise system authenticating a user ID and password of a user of said first enterprise system;

in response to receiving a request to complete a survey, providing said first enterprise system with access to a survey form stored in a database that is replicated at the second enterprise system;

receiving response data solicited in the survey form; and

updating a database at the second enterprise system with the response data, the updating including storing the response data in one of a draft mode and a final mode designated by the first enterprise system;

wherein said second enterprise system includes a development toolkit network tool for facilitating communication between said first enterprise and said second enterprise, and wherein further, said development toolkit network tool executes product development and procurement activities.

49. The storage medium of claim 48, further comprising instructions for causing said second enterprise system to implement:

in response to receiving a request to view a completed survey, replicating a database associated with said second enterprise system resulting from the request to view a completed

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

survey;

providing access to said database;

displaying a list of surveys, said surveys previously completed by said first enterprise system;

retrieving one of said surveys from said database in response to a request to view a selected survey; and

displaying said selected survey.

50. The storage medium of claim 48, wherein the receiving a request to complete a survey includes:

receiving a request to select a survey type from a list of survey type options;

and

associating said survey form with a technical representative of said second enterprise system.

51. The storage medium of claim 48, further comprising instructions for causing said second enterprise system to implement:

receiving an attached file with said response data.

52. The storage medium of claim 48, wherein said storing said survey form in a draft mode occurs at said second enterprise system.

53. (Cancelled)

54. The storage medium of claim 48, wherein said storing said survey form in a final mode occurs at said second enterprise system.

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127-0006



55. The storage medium of claim 48, wherein said storing said survey form in said final mode includes:

transmitting a notification to a representative of said second enterprise system; and  
making said survey form available to said second enterprise system.

56. The storage medium of claim 50, further comprising instructions for causing said second enterprise system to implement:

receiving a request to access a stored survey form from said database;

retrieving said stored survey form from said database;

transmitting said stored survey form to said first enterprise system, said first enterprise system editing said stored survey form;

receiving edits to said stored survey form; and

storing said survey form in said database.

57. The storage medium of claim 56, wherein said editing is in a draft mode.

58. The storage medium of claim 56, wherein said transmitting said survey form includes replicating said database to said second enterprise system and designating said survey form as a new entry.

59. The storage medium of claim 56, wherein said storing said survey form includes storing said survey form in a final mode.

60. The storage medium of claim 59, wherein said storing said survey form in said final mode causes a notification to be transmitted to a representative of said second enterprise system.

61. The storage medium of claim 48, wherein said communications network

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

environment includes an extranet.

62. The storage medium of claim 48, wherein said authenticating said user ID and said password is accomplished via a firewall.

63. The storage medium of claim 48, wherein said user is a supplier.

64. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment, the storage medium including instructions for causing an enterprise system to implement a method, comprising:

receiving a notification by a remote user of a second enterprise system, said notification including data relating to a supplier survey, the notification generated in response to an assignment of a final mode designator to the supplier survey; wherein the designator is assigned by a first enterprise system;

receiving a request to access a replicated database associated with said second enterprise system, said replicated database storing said supplier survey;

authenticating a user ID and a password of said remote user;

providing access to said replicated database;

displaying said supplier survey;

evaluating supplier input entered into the supplier survey;

providing evaluation results into a remote device operated by said remote user; and

storing said data;

wherein said enterprise system includes a development toolkit network tool for executing product development and procurement activities.

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

40

65. The storage medium of claim 64, wherein said receiving said notification is via an electronic mail.

66. (Cancelled).

67. The storage medium of claim 64, wherein said replicated database resides on a remote device.

68. The storage medium of claim 64, wherein said entering said data includes providing feedback information to a supplier, said supplier associated with said supplier survey.

69. The storage medium of claim 64, wherein said entering said data includes rating said supplier survey.

70. The storage medium of claim 69, wherein said rating includes providing markings to said survey, said markings designating a preferred status.

71. (Cancelled).

72. (Cancelled).

73. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment, including a first enterprise system and a second enterprise system, the storage medium including instructions for causing said second enterprise system to implement a method, comprising:

receiving a request to access a database associated with an enterprise system by a remote user;

authenticating a user ID and a password of said remote user;

replicating said database to a second database of said enterprise system;

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

providing access to said second database;

receiving a request for a technology menu, said menu comprising at least one technology type;

transmitting said technology menu via said network;

receiving a request for a display of technology sub-types from said at least one technology type;

receiving said display via said network wherein said technology sub-types include at least one technology family;

receiving a request for data corresponding to said at least one technology family; and

transmitting said data corresponding to said at least one technology family; wherein said data includes at least one technology supplier; and

wherein further, said enterprise system includes a development toolkit network tool for executing product development and procurement functions.

74. The storage medium of claim 73, wherein said technology menu, said technology types, and said technology sub-types are retrievable from a first database.

75. The storage medium of claim 73, wherein said data corresponding to said at least one technology family is retrievable from a second database.

76. The storage medium of claim 73, further comprising instructions for causing said enterprise system to implement:

requesting data corresponding to said at least one technology supplier, said data including an item from said supplier technology comparison list; and

viewing a technology survey response.

77. The storage medium of claim 76 wherein said technology survey response is rated, said survey including preferredness designations.

78. The storage medium of claim 77 wherein said designations are provided by a procurement engineer of said second enterprise system.

79. The storage medium of claim 77 wherein said technology survey response is unrated.

80. The storage medium of claim 73, further comprising instructions for causing said enterprise system to implement:

providing a hypertext link from said technology survey response, said link corresponding to a supplier's web site.

81. The storage medium of claim 73, wherein said storing said data includes replicating databases of said network system.

82. The storage medium of claim 73, wherein said requesting said data and viewing said supplier survey response is initiated by a development engineer of said second enterprise system.

83. The storage medium of claim 73, wherein said communications network environment is an intranet.

84. A method for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment, comprising:

receiving product data and technical information from a plurality of supplier entities via a supplier survey database, the supplier survey database replicated for each of the plurality of supplier entities;

associating the product data and technology information with a procurement specialist

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006

and providing the procurement specialist with access to the product data and technical information for analysis;

receiving results of the analysis from the procurement specialist, the results including preferred technology recommendations and preferred supplier recommendations;

integrating the product development and technical information with the results and with a parts repository resulting in a technical roadmap guide; and

providing a development engineer with access to the technical roadmap guide.

85. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable program code for facilitating product development and procurement functions in a communications network environment, the program code including instructions for causing a host system to implement a method, comprising:

receiving product data and technical information from a plurality of supplier entities via a supplier survey database, the supplier survey database replicated for each of the plurality of supplier entities;

associating the product data and technology information with a procurement specialist and providing the procurement specialist with access to the product data and technical information for analysis;

receiving results of the analysis from the procurement specialist, the results including preferred technology recommendations and preferred supplier recommendations;

integrating the product development and technical information with the results and with a parts repository resulting in a technical roadmap guide; and

providing a development engineer with access to the technical roadmap guide.

YOR920000503US1  
127-0006